

The Rev. Kimberly D. Lucas
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
1830 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC 20009

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my full support of the plans of St. Thomas' Parish to rebuild their church. It takes a lot of courage, imagination, endurance and humor just to go through the multiyear planning process that is required, much less to weather the sort of harsh public response that continues to come their way. As my grandmother said, "No good deed goes unpunished."

From the perspective of a neighboring Episcopal Church, I applaud this church's commitment to the Dupont Circle neighborhood. No one makes money building new facilities these days; but few figure out how to do so without saddling the future leadership of the congregation with long-term bills. St. Thomas' creative partnership with a residential property developer speaks well of the current vitality and future sustainability of this vibrant parish.

Change for most people is initially scary, and it never comes without some losses as well as the hoped for gains. But for a church, or a neighborhood, or a city to remain alive and growing and contributing to the common good, decisions have to be made. And this project as it stands was a very good decision.

St. Margaret's looks forward to celebrating with St. Thomas' their move into their new spiritual home in a couple of years. Until then, we remain unreservedly supportive of their undertaking and the congregation's commitment to being a vital presence of service and inclusion in our community. We ask others to become a part of the future that is unfolding, rather than in any way standing in its way.

Sincerely,

